

AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994
2ND FLOOR MEETING HALL
TOWN HALL, MAIN ST., AYER, MA.

7:30p.m. Open Session

Present: Chairman Slarsky, Selectman Jones and Selectman Hamel.

Chairman Slarsky brought the Board's attention to the new audio system installed earlier in the week to eliminate the poor sound quality in the room.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amount: P/R: \$340,060.86

The Minutes of February 2, 1994, were amended: Page 3-last paragraph to correct "appointment" and replace with recommend to the Governor the names of James Hashem and Paul Routhier. Page 2 to add a zero to paragraph 3 line 2. The minutes of 2-15-94 were then moved and accepted.

Chairman Slarsky requested if there was anyone present who wished to come before the Board under Public Input, no one stepped forward. Chairman Slarsky stated he had one item he wished to address regarding the election.

Chairman Slarsky stated he had just been advised of another candidate seeking the Assessor's position. Chairman Slarsky introduced Sandra Jones to the meeting stating Mrs. Jones was running a sticker campaign for the April 25, 1994 election.

Chairman Slarsky called for a motion to accept the Agenda of 3-15-94, Selectman Hamel moved the Agenda of 3-15-94 be accepted seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with the Town's Economic Development Director-Robert Hubbard. Mr. Hubbard introduced Jim Meyers and Nancy Grace of New England Milling to the Board. Mr. Hubbard stated Mr. Meyers was present this evening regarding announcing plans for expansion at the NEMCO Way plant.

Mr. Meyers presence this evening was welcomed and unexpected. Mr. Meyers stated he flew in from St. Louis earlier this week for business reasons and was happy to be here to announce the company's expansion to the Board. Mr. Meyers stated the expansion included a new line of wheat milling for bakery products along with the simila/pasta production. The expansion to be internal i.e. machinery and some in plant renovations. Mr. Meyers explained that the company would be shut down for an eight (8) week period during this change over. Employees will not be laid off but will assist in the renovations during this eight weeks. Mr. Meyers expected the wheat milling to be on line by

July 1994. Mr. Meyers stated there would be no structural changes to the building or silos. Mr. Meyers stated Mr. Vellante the Building Inspector has been contacted by the Companies architect/project manager. Mr. Meyers stated the companies employment will increase when the new product comes on line. The Board offered Mr. Hubbard's assistance with the Town's new tax incentive introduced by the Board last month and thanked Mr. Meyers for coming in. Chairman Slarsky stated this is positive news for the Town and extended the Boards support for the project applauding New England Millings strong commitment to the Town of Ayer.

Chairman Slarsky took this opportunity to announce that Fort Devens was selected by the Dept. of Labor as one of nine sites for a new Job Corp. Center. Chairman Slarsky stated the Board took an active role in supporting this project as well as touring a state of the art facility in Maine.

Chairman Slarsky also took this opportunity to welcome back the 46th Medical Unit which returned last week from Somalia. The Board requested a welcome back message be sent from the Board.

The Board approved a Seasonal License Renewal for Conyngham Francis/D-B-A The Seasoned Chef located at the Shaker Hills Golf Course for April through October 1994 same hours of operations/language to be inserted. Selectman Jones moved the renewal approval seconded by Selectman Hamel, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

8:00P.M. Public Hearing - 1994 Tax Classification

The Board met with the Ayer Board of Assessors: Edward Cornellier, James Wood and Denis Callahan. Selectman Jones read the legal notice which ran in the Nashoba Publications the week of March 9, 1994. Mr. Cornellier gave a brief overview of the process and presented a property tax breakout of property tax classifications for the Town. Rates depicted were single rate through multiple rates one through seven. (see attached) Mr. Cornellier stated the Town has customarily gone with a split rate. Mr. Cornellier stated the single rate would be \$13.11 for residential/commercial a 50.92% increase for residential and a 16.94% for commercial. Multiple rate 1 being 65%, rate 2: 67%, rate 3: 68%, rate 4: 69%, rate 5: 70%, rate 6: 71%, rate 7: 75%. The Board ran through the different formulas with the Assessors and agreed that Multiple Rate 3 (68%) best reflected a unbiased and equitable cost of living reflection to the Residential/Commercial/Industrial tax base for Fy-94. MR-3 represents no change from FY-93/status quo.

Chairman Slarsky stated the Board customarily has taken the tax classification under advisement for two week prior to setting the rate but felt the rate recommended by the Assessors best reflected a fair assessment of the split rate the Town endorsed.

Chairman Slarsky called for a motion for the Board to set the FY-94 Tax Rate for FY-94. Selectman Jones moved the Board accept Multiple Rate #3 as presented by the Board of Assessors which will set the Rate for FY-94 for residential property at \$8.92 a 2.62% increase over FY-93 and the Commercial/Industrial property tax rate at \$16.26 a 2.97% increase over FY-93, seconded by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

8:25p.m. The Public Hearing closed.

The Board thanked the Board of Assessors for all their help with the tax classification data. Chairman Slarsky announced Jim Wood's decision not to run again for assessor this term and thanked him for his past five years of service as Assessor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: (see report dated 3-15-94)

1. Mr. Higgins advised the Board the School Committee has confirmed their attendance at the next Selectmen's Meeting of Tuesday, March 29, 1994 at 7:00p.m. for one hour. The School Committee will be leaving this meeting to conduct their own scheduled meeting.

2. Mr. Higgins updated the Board to the FY-95 budget process. The Board was advised to the School Budgets still not coming in. Mr. Higgins stated budget were due in by January 31, 1994. On this matter Mr. Higgins advised the Board to the Advisory Board being advised of a potential reduction in the Vocational Budget of \$200,000.00, if this is so, it would greatly offset the deficit the town is projecting for next year. Mr. Higgins stated he has had no confirmation of this from the school.

The Board was advised to no new clarification on whether the Town may count the loss of Choice Students. (\$370,000 this year) toward meeting out spending requirements. Still awaiting inquires from DOR and the MMA.

Selectman Jones requested to get an explanation from the School as to why we subsidize students? Requesting if it cost the Town to educate a student \$5,500.00 why were Town of Shirley students only charged \$2,900.00? Chairman Slarsky requested what was Shirley going to pay Lunenburg? The Board requested this information be prepared for the 29th meeting with the School Com. Chairman Slarsky expressed his displeasure re: this information with the possibility of layoffs occurring in Public Safety departments projected for FY-95. Selectman Jones stating it was time the School recognized these deficiencies.

3. The Board was advised to Town Counsel's suit being readied to be submitted later in the week.

4. The Board was advised to the deadline for the ballot to

include any overrides is March 25th, 1994. The Board has contemplated 10% budget cuts which may result in service reductions to include layoffs. The Library was provides an analysis of the debt exclusion of \$900,000 and language for the ballot question. The Board instructed Mr. Higgins to prepare four ballot questions along with two warrants. One with the three debt exclusions: DPW Special Articles for Spectacle Pond new well, upgrading the Towns water meters and Library, the other warrant to include all of the above and override question re: Fy-95 budget cuts (10% reductions to all town departments).

5. The Board was advised to a list of items by various Town Departments submitted to the Joint Boards re: Fort Devens surplus property/buildings.

6. The Board approved the Chairman's endorsement on the Recycling Grant Agreement for the roll-off container for the Transfer Station. Selectman Hamel moved the approval, seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

7. The Board approved of the Chairman's signature for a Water and Sewer Permit for 2B Wachusett Ave., Ayer, Ma. Selectman Hamel moved the approval, seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

8. The Board was advised to a Public Hearing being scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 1994 at 8:00p.m. re: the creation of the Industrial Development Finance Authority (IDFA).

9. The Board nominated Chairman Slarsky as the Town's designee to the County Advisory Board, Motion moved by Selectman Hamel seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

10. Mr. Higgins presented to the Board a letter addressed to Mohammed Khan, Director of MRPC regarding the Towns support for the rail trail project the Ayer-Hollis line. The Board approved of the letter being sent to Montachusett Regional Planning Commission seeking their support of the Environmental Management Application in the amount of \$225,000. Selectman Hamel moved the Board authorize the Chairman to endorse this request, seconded by Selectman Jones, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

Selectman Jones requested Mr. Higgins prepare information for Town residents regarding cost to taxpayers for override ballot questions and look at conducting a Public Hearing regarding budget cuts prior to Town Meeting.

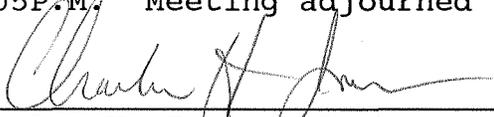
The Board requested to meet with the Advisory Board on Saturday, March 19, 1994 at 8:00a.m. re: Police, Fire and DPW Fy-95 budget review.

Selectman Jones moved the Board adjourn the meeting, seconded by

BOSMIN3-15-94/PG.5

Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

9:05P.M. Meeting adjourned



DATE: 3/29/94

Charles H. Jones, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN